

The inhibitory apparatus of the heart seems to be affected only at a late stage; the muscular-motor nerves are not affected.

The blood-pressure continues for a long time at its normal height, to sink at last, gradually toward death.

10. The mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines is strongly injected, especially in warm-blooded animals; it is ecchymosed and swollen, and blood exudes into the intestinal tube; the cause of this is as yet obscure. The results are severe colicky pain, vomiting and diarrhea.

The abdominal vagus and the splanchnic, remain unparalyzed during the most of the course of the disease.

11. The secretion of the very hyperæmic kidneys, is diminished by colchicine.

12. Death from colchicine in warm-blooded animals is brought about by the failure of the respiration.

The practical conclusions deduced by the author are unfavorable to the therapeutic use of colchicine for any purpose. The opinion of some observers that it is useful in dropsical and gouty troubles, may he thinks, be accounted for by the pain relieving action of the drug, and not by any action it possesses in increasing the urinary excretion.

NERVE STRETCHING IN TETANUS. G. W. Calleuder, F. R. S., writes as follows in the *Lancet*, July, p. 317.

In a paper read before the Abernethian Society, (*St. Bartholomew's, Hosp. Rep.* XI. 1875. p. 287) Mr. Milner has advocated the treatment of tetanus by nerve stretching, and in some observations on this operation upon nerve trunks (*Clin. Soc. Trans.* VII. 1874. p. 100), I have expressed my regret in narrating a case of tetanus, that the peroneal nerve was not exposed and stretched. Since this was written no case of traumatic tetanus has come under my care, but had the opportunity been given me, I should certainly have planned an operation such as I have indicated, supposing, of course, that the nature of the case permitted me to stretch a nerve-trunk between the site of injury, and the nerve centres. I am glad to hear that quite recently M. Verneuil has had under his care in La Pitie, a case which he will, I hope, soon publish. A man had suffered from a severe crush on the hand, and following this, showed the symptoms of tetanus. M. Verneuil exposed the median nerve at the elbow, and the ulnar at the wrist, and proceeded to exercise traction on them. The patient recovered completely.

I hope that this note may lead to a further trial of this method of treatment. The operation is not a severe one. The nerve is exposed and is stretched, when freed from its surroundings, by traction with an ordinary vulsellum, from its central connections. No harm is likely to be sustained as a consequence. There is now abundant evidence, in the cases reported by Billroth, Nussbaum, and myself, of the tolerance with which nerves submit to forcible stretching, so far as the after-performance of their functions is concerned. In view of the unsatisfactory results of the treatment of traumatic tetanus as at present conducted, there is full justification for he performance as, at least, a last resource, although I should myself advo-

cate its trial, as in the case under the care of M. Verucnil, as soon as the signs of the disease are distinctly recognized.

NITRITE OF AMYL.—MM. Jolyet and P. Regnard gave to the Soc. de Biologie, June 17 (rep. in *Le Progres Medical*), the results of their researches on the action of nitrite of amyl on the blood. Dr. H. C. Wood observed in 1871, that after inhalation of the drug the blood became dark and did not brighten in color by agitation with air. MM. Jolyet and Regnard have followed up this observation, and have measured the capacity for absorbing oxygen of the blood, and have found it is two-thirds less than in the normal state. It acts directly on the hæmaglobin and its action is in proportion to the quantity of hæmaglobin altered. This alteration, however, is only temporary, one of the dogs experimented upon having survived, its blood was again tested the following day, and found to be nearly normal in respect to the absorption of oxygen. The blood of another that had been killed by the experiment, was preserved in a glass vessel and tested the next day, and also found to have largely regained its capacity to absorb oxygen.

Spectroscopic examination was also made of the blood, directly after inhalation, and also on the following day. In the first examination, the two lines characteristic of oxygenated hæmaglobin were scarcely visible, and in their place was the line of hæmatine. In the second, they had re-appeared and the hæmatine line was absent.

Hence, the experimenters conclude that the vapors of nitrite of amyl act on the blood, driving out the carbonic acid and preventing the absorption of oxygen by the hæmaglobin. This action is temporary, and the effect, at least of an immediately mortal dose, is obliterated in from twelve to twenty-four hours.

XANTHIUM SPINOSUM.—Grzymala *Jour. de Thérap.* (abstr. in *Rev. des Sci. Méd.*) adds to the reputed list of antidotes for hydrophobia, by asserting that the leaves of *Xanthium spinosum* are a certain preventive of the disease, if properly administered for a sufficient period after the inoculation of the virus. He claims that in more than a hundred cases it has not failed once. It is diaphoretic and sialagogue, and has also feeble diuretic properties. It increases slightly the temperature, quickens the circulation, and occasionally produces a little headache, and even vomiting at the beginning of the treatment. The dose for an adult is about nine grains, three times a day for three weeks; for a child under eleven years, half of the adult dose may be given.

BROMOHYDRIC ACID.—Dr. J. Milner Fothergill *Brit. Med. Journal*, July 8, reports his experience with this agent. He was led to do it by a recommendation of Dr. Dewitt C. Wade in the *Peninsular Med. Journal* for February, 1875, especially in obviating the headache produced in some persons by quinine, and in the treatment of fever. Dr. Fothergill's conclusions after a year's experience are as follows. He says:

"It certainly does prevent the occurrence of headache, after each dose of quinine, in those who before had to desist from taking quinine for that reason. It is, perhaps, not invariably successful, but its power is very